Ignorance of Labour Welfare in paper Mills in Orissa

2766. SHRI BHAIKUNTH NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some paper mills set up in Orissa are not paying proper attention to the welfare of labourer;

(b) if so, what are those paper mills; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by each of those paper mills to pay uniform wages, accommodation and other facilities as prescribed by law?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) to (c) The required information has been called from Government of Orissa and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

AIR Swahili Programmes

2767. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether A.I.R. Swahili programmes for Africa and the broadcasts for Thailand are entirely run by foreign nationals with no Indians in picture even as supervisors or readers; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps being taken to have Indians knowing these languages on the staff or to impart knowledge of these languages to existing staff?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir. The Supervisor manning the Swahili service is an Indian national. The post of Supervisor for the Thai Unit is lying vacant. The four existing translator-cum-announcers, in both the Swahili and Thai service are, however, foreigners. The Deputy Director overseeing these units is an Indian national. Advertisements inviting applications for posts in the Swahili and Thai Units have not evoked response from Indian nationals.

(b) All India Radio has a scheme of language training for persons manning different foreign language services in the External Services Division. Under this scheme, External Services Division: All India Radio personnel have been sent abroad periodically to the respective target countries to gain proficiency in the language.

Workers in tea gardens

2768. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report of the State Committee of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions wherein it was stated that the number of tea garden workers in Assam has come down by half to four lacs during the last four decades although the area under tea plantation has increased to 3.81 lacs hectares from 2.56 lacs hectares during the period;

(b) if so, what is the present ratio of workers per hectare of land under cultivation in the tea gardens of Assam;

(c) what is the ratio demanded by the trade unions;

(d) whether the authorities concerned propose to fulfill the demand of the trade unions; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and Government's steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) to (e) The enforcement of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Information is being

collected from the Government of Assam and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Guwahati Doordarshan Kendra

2769. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total area covered by Guwahati Doordarshan Kendra;

(b) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government for increasing the transmission capacity of Guwahati Doordarshan Kendra in order to enable the people of Assam to view the local programmes; and

(c) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTRY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The high power (10KW) transmitter at Guwahati provides service to an area of about 18,000 Sq. Kms.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The TV programmes originating from Doordarshan Kendra, Guwahati can be distributed throughout the State only when the transmitters operating in the State are linked with it either through a dedicated microwave circuit or via satellite. The VII Plan has already a scheme for dissemination of North-Eastern Regional TV Service throughout the region including Assam by utilisation of satellite facility. In the meantime, the duration of TV service originating from the interim TV Studio set up at Guwahati (under replacement by a permanent TV Studio Complex) is being progressively increased subject to constraint of resources. Besides, TV Studio Centres are also under implementation at Silchar and Dibrugarh where high power (10 KW) TV transmitters are operating. The programmes produced and telecast from these Kendras would be available within the service area of the respective transmitters and these Kendras are envisaged to also contribute programmes for inclusion in the North-Eastern Regional service.

Production of paddy in Assam

2770. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that per capita area under production of paddy in Assam is very low compared to national average;

(b) if so, whether there is any Centrally sponsored paddy production programme in Assam for stepping-up paddy yields; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No, Sir. Per capita area under production of paddy in Assam during triennium ending 1987-88 was 0.10 hectare as against the All-India average of 0.05 hectare.

(b) and (c) A Centrally Sponsored Special Rice Production Programme for increasing the productivity of paddy was launched in 1985-86. This programme is being implemented in 37 blocks of Assam and assistance is being provided to the farmers for use of inputs like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, plant protection chemicals, farm implements etc. An outlay of Rs. 185 lakhs has been provided to the State as Government of India's share during 1988-89 on 50 : 50 basis.

Besides above, another Centrally Sponsored Special Foodgrains Production Programme—Rice has been